

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A database system comprising:
 - a database in which data has been stored accessibly;
 - a search device for accessing the database in accordance with an applied search command and searching data that has been stored in said database;
 - a command execution device, to which a command is entered, for applying a search command to said search device in accordance with this entered command; and
 - a first interface for separably and directly connecting ,without via a network, said search device and said command execution device.
2. (original) The system according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - a storage device for storing data readably;
 - a storage controller for accessing said storage device and reading data that has been stored in said storage device or writing data to said storage device in accordance with an applied read/write command; and
 - a second interface for separably connecting said storage controller and said command execution device;
 - said command execution device applying a read/write command to said storage controller in accordance with the entered command.
3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) A database server comprising:
 - a first receiving device for receiving a search command transmitted via a network;
 - a search device for searching the database based upon the search command received by said first receiving device;

a ~~transmitting~~ first determining device for ~~transmitting~~ determining whether the search command, which has been received by said first receiving device, can be transmitted to another database server;

a transmitting device for transmitting the received search command to said another database server when it is determined that the received search command can be transmitted to said another database server by said first determining device;

a second receiving device for receiving data, which represents search results, transmitted from said ~~other~~ another database server in accordance with transmission of the search command to said ~~other~~ another database server by said transmitting device; and

an output device for outputting, in mutually correlated form, data representing search results obtained by the search by said search device and data representing search results received by said second receiving device.

5. (currently amended) A method of controlling operation of a database server comprising ~~the steps of~~:

receiving a search command transmitted via a network;

searching a database based upon the received search command;

~~transmitting~~ determining whether the received search command can be transmitted to another database server;

transmitting the received search command to said another database server when it is determined that the received search command can be transmitted to said another database server;

receiving data, which represents search results, transmitted from ~~the other~~ said another database server in accordance with transmission of the search command to ~~the other~~ said another database server; and

outputting, in mutually correlated form, data representing search results obtained by the search and data representing received search results.

6. (new) The system according to claim 1, wherein said search device is replaceable by a second search device upon separation from said command execution device.
7. (new) The system according to claim 6, wherein said search device employs a search technique different than a search technique of said second search device.
8. (new) The system according to claim 1, further comprising a relational database management system containing attribute information corresponding to said data, wherein said relational database management system is searchable by said search device.
9. (new) The system according to claim 1, further comprising a command receiving device for receiving the entered command from a client.
10. (new) The system according to claim 1, further comprising a command resending device for transmitting the entered command to another database server.
11. (new) The system according to claim 2, wherein said storage controller is replaceable by a second storage controller upon separation from said command execution device.

12. (new) The system according to claim 11, wherein said second storage controller is different than said storage controller.

13. (new) The system according to claim 2, further comprising an expression-format converter for generating data having a desired expression format when it is determined that data having the desired expression format is not stored in the database.

14. (new) The system according to claim 13, wherein said expression-format converter is separably connected to said command execution device by said second interface.

15. (new) The database server according to claim 4, wherein the search command is accompanied by data for determining whether the search command can be transmitted to said another database server;

said first determining device determining whether the search command can be transmitted based upon the accompanying data.

16. (new) The database server according to claim 4, further comprising:

a second determining device for determining whether the data, which has an expression format indicated by the received search command by said first receiving device, is stored in the database;

a generating device for generating the data having the expression format when it is determined that the data having the expression format is not stored in the database by said

second determining device; and

a storing device for storing the data generated by the generating device in the database.

17. (new) The method of controlling operation of a database server according to claim 5, wherein said determining whether the search command can be transmitted to another database server is based upon data accompanying the search command for determining whether the search command can be transmitted.

18. (new) The method of controlling operation of a database server according to claim 5, further comprising:

determining whether the data, which has an expression format indicated by the received search command, is stored in the database;

generating data having the expression format when it is determined that the data having the expression format is not stored in the database; and

storing the generated data in the database.

19. (currently amended) A database server comprising:

a means for receiving a search command transmitted via a network;

a means for searching the database based upon the received search command:

a means for determining whether the received search command can be transmitted to another database server;

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a means for transmitting the received search command to said another database server when it is determined that the received search command can be transmitted to said another database server;

a means for receiving data, which represents search results, transmitted from said another database server in accordance with transmission of the received search command to said another database server; and

a means for outputting, in mutually correlated form, data representing search results obtained by the search by said search device and data representing received search results.